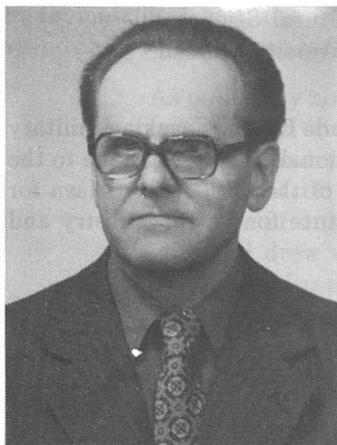


The 75th Anniversary of Miroslav Zikmund



Corresponding Member of the Slovak Academy of Sciences Ing. RNDr. *Miroslav Zikmund*, CSc., distinguished Slovak inorganic chemist, celebrated his 75th birthday on December 26th, 1996. He has worked in the field of inorganic chemistry more than 40 years and the present state of this branch of science in Slovakia has been influenced by his work and efforts in several respects. He took keen interest in the development of inorganic chemistry and his work in this field contributes to major advances. M. Zikmund gave invaluable help to our universities at the development of the teaching of inorganic chemistry. He played an important role in the period of the establishment and development of inorganic research within the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS). Organization of scientific meetings, long years of editorship of the journal *Chemical Papers*, authorship of chemistry textbooks, nomenclature in inorganic chemistry are just a few of his many activities. It is difficult to adequately describe his scientific eminence, but it is still harder to describe his personality in a few words. He has been well known for his honesty in all his dealings, his kindness and willingness to help his friends, colleagues, and students with advice. He is respected because of his

knowledge, erudition, enthusiasm, and working power. M. Zikmund is a superb lecturer. His participation in educational activities of our universities has never ceased. His lectures are distinguished for their richness of content, persuasiveness, and spontaneous flow of ideas.

From the year 1941 M. Zikmund began his academic career at the Department of Inorganic Chemistry at the Faculty of Chemical Technology. In 1950 he was appointed head of this Department and he held this position till 1953. From 1950 he has been teaching at the Comenius University. Since 1953 he worked in the SAS at the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry. With his enormous energy he was extremely active during the organizing and formative years of this Institute. Since 1968 he had been Deputy Director of the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry and the Director of Institute from 1982 until his retirement in 1990. He headed the Department of syntheses and structures. He was also engaged in scientific boards of the Czechoslovak and Slovak Academies of Sciences for a number of years. He was elected Corresponding Member of SAS in 1980. As a scientist of international repute he was national representative on IUPAC (1978—1987), member of the American Chemical Society (1966—1984), headed cooperation of East European countries in the field "Structure of new types of coordination compounds".

The main and long-lasting centre of his scientific activities was coordination chemistry. His works have aimed at the elucidation of relations between the structure and properties of coordination compounds and at the problems concerning the syntheses of these compounds. His work on titanium complexes is remarkable as it required the application of elaborate experimental techniques, and which is even more important, the theoretical approaches used for the interpretation of results thus obtained are novel and original. His recent works on coordination compounds anchored on the surface of inorganic carriers and on their catalytic properties aroused much attention. He holds several patents on the preparation of very pure magnesium compounds.

M. Zikmund is the author and coauthor of more than 70 scientific papers, 7 monographs, 13 reviews, prognostic studies, nomenclature textbooks, 36 Czechoslovak and foreign patents. M. Zikmund trained hundreds of students, post-graduates, doctorants, who now work in chemistry in Slovakia and abroad.

More than 40 years M. Zikmund devoted his efforts, careful attention, and work to the journal *Chemical Papers*. Since the beginning of the publication of this journal in 1947, he had been member of its Advisory Editorial Board (AEB). For many years he was editor, editor-in-chief, and chairman of the AEB, at the present time the honorary member. He was generous with his and also his wife's time for this journal.

M. Zikmund has both a wide and deep knowledge of the science of chemistry. He was generous with ideas and advice and inspired his many students and coworkers with his enthusiasm for research. He tirelessly fostered a collaborative atmosphere in the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry. He was strong leader, who preferred to lead by cooperation. Chemists in Slovakia benefit not only by Zikmund's scientific knowledge and research, but also by his general educational and cultural capabilities. His outstanding scientific work was awarded by the Golden

Medals of the SAS, Comenius University, Slovak Technical University, Faculty of Sciences of the Comenius University, Slovak Chemical Society, Honorary Golden Plaque of D. Štúr and J. Heyrovský. For his activities in the Czechoslovak Chemical Society he has received the Hanuš Medal. The honours, awards, and degrees M. Zikmund has received are too numerous to be all listed here.

M. Zikmund retired in 1990 but remained very active, continuing in the teaching of inorganic chemistry at the Comenius University; his latest monograph "Nomenclature in Inorganic Chemistry" and textbook on the same theme in other version for students was printed a year ago. On the occasion of M. Zikmund's anniversary we wish him creative vigour in the following years for continuation of his activities, the results of which he has always used for the benefit of chemists.

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